

## CLAIMS

1. Isolated RNA of 21 nucleotides that mediates RNA interference of an mRNA to which it corresponds.
2. Isolated RNA of 23 nucleotides that mediates RNA interference of an mRNA to which it corresponds.
3. A method of mediating RNA interference of mRNA of a gene in a cell or organism comprising: (a) introducing RNA of 21 or 23 nucleotides which targets the mRNA of the gene for degradation into the cell or organism; (b) maintaining the cell or organism produced in (a) under conditions which permit inhibition of the mRNA, thereby mediating RNA interference of the mRNA of the gene in the cell or organism.